



Senator

Mary Margaret Haugen

10th Legislative District

Legislative Report

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Committees:

- Transportation, Chair
- Consumer Protection
& Housing
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Do you need a guest speaker?

If you would like me to speak to your group or organization about the Legislature or about specific issues, please call my office at 360-786-7618 to schedule a speaking date.

Sign up for my e-newsletter!

To receive periodic updates on legislative activity, sign up for my e-newsletter at:

www.sdc.wa.gov/haugen.htm

In the weeks to come, I will highlight important local issues and focus in greater detail on key bills that passed this session.

Spring 2007

Dear Friends,

I am happy to bring back very good news from Olympia. In each legislative session you tend to win some and lose some, but this year we won many more than we lost. It was a strong year for Washington overall, and a particularly strong year for the 10th District.

As chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, much of my time is consumed by high-profile legislation with statewide ramifications — everything from funding to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct to maintaining highways all across Washington — but I never forget my district. Because I know better than anyone that the local projects you won't necessarily hear about in the news are the things that make the biggest difference in our quality of life.

Of everything I fought for this year, nothing was more rewarding to me than the approval of a new, 4-year college in North Snohomish County, the establishment of an Office of Farmland Preservation, and full funding for Cama Beach State Park. I know what each of these investments means to our community — to our students, to our farmers, to everyone who lives here — and I will discuss these and many other important legislative accomplishments that I sponsored or supported in greater detail in the pages inside. Of course, there's always more to say than fits in a newsletter, so please don't hesitate to write or call for more information on a specific project or issue. Better yet, sign up for my e-newsletter to receive periodic updates of bills and issues as they evolve.

As always, I welcome your opinions, concerns and questions. Please do not hesitate to call my office or write to me via mail or e-mail to discuss legislation or ongoing issues.

Sincerely,

Mary Margaret Haugen
State Senator
10th Legislative District

Transportation

✓ Safety, honoring promises, keeping projects on schedule

We based our transportation spending this year on three priorities: public safety, honoring our promises to voters who supported the 2003 Nickel Package and the 2005 Transportation Partnership Act, and keeping projects on schedule despite a significant rise in construction costs. Keeping projects on schedule is crucial, because one of the biggest contributors to the cost of a given project is the inflation that results from construction delays.

✓ Blocking a costly program: Real ID

I sponsored Senate Bill 5087 to protect Washington taxpayers from the high cost of the Real ID Act, an expensive and unfunded federal mandate for a national ID card that would have cost Washington taxpayers \$96.7 million in 2007-09 and \$93 million in 2009-11 for implementation. Additionally, the numerous forms of identification required under this federal mandate would be stored electronically, potentially offering a virtual goldmine of information for identity thieves.

✓ A better answer: Enhanced driver's licenses

I sponsored legislation to allow Washington to issue a new, optional driver's license that will double as identification for travel to Canada and include information to prove citizenship and state residency. The license will cost \$40, compared to \$95 for a passport, and be accepted by the Office of Homeland Security for land and sea border crossings beginning Jan. 1, 2008.

✓ Keeping State Route 20 on schedule

We included \$195 million in the budget to consolidate the improvements to SR 20 in Island and Skagit counties, including additional lanes, signals, an interchange and other enhancements; this is crucial because a previous budget proposal would have delayed many of the SR 20 improvements until as late as 2021; this restores the projects to their 2007-09 timetable.



✓ Funding state roads for small cities and towns

At the request of the City of Oak Harbor, I sponsored Senate Bill 5086 to raise the population threshold, from 22,500 to 25,000, for smaller cities and towns that generate too little revenue to maintain the state highways that run through them. In such cases, the Washington State Department of Transportation assumes responsibility for maintenance.

✓ Cracking down on ferry cutters

I sponsored SB 5088 to give law enforcement the authority to cite motorists who cut in line at ferries and send them to the rear of the line.



On one of the final days of the session, we had the delight of hearing Whidbey Island's Shifty Sailors perform all over the Capital Campus. These rousing folk singers not only accepted my invitation to sing on the Senate floor (above), where their music broke the tension of a long session for everyone; they also sang in the Capital Rotunda and added a couple of impromptu performances outside the Legislative Building and on the floor of the House of Representatives. My heartfelt thanks to every one of them!

Education

✓ A 4-year college for North Snohomish County

I fought long and hard, and enlisted the help of several colleagues, to win approval for a four-year college with a strong polytechnical focus within a reasonable drive for our area's residents. Even as sites are evaluated for this extension of the University of Washington over the next year, the school will lease facilities to offer courses as early as the 2008 school year.

✓ Letting voters decide on school funding

HJR 4204 will let voters decide whether to amend the state constitution to permit school levies to pass with a simple 50 percent plus one vote majority, rather than the current 60 percent supermajority. We've debated this for years in the Legislature; it's time we let the voters decide for themselves. This will be up for a vote of the people on the ballot this November.

Other education bills I supported this year will:

- Improve math and science professional development for teachers;
- Expand hands-on science learning;
- Help struggling students pass the WASL;
- Reward outstanding teachers, raise teacher pay and provide more equity among school districts;
- Provide scholarships to qualified students of engineering, math, applied science and technology who commit to working in one of these fields for at least three years upon graduation;
- Provide Opportunity Grants to educate students for local jobs;
- Expand eligibility for State Need Grants;
- Cap tuition increases at colleges and universities;
- Increase access to colleges and universities; and
- Establish Washington College Bound Scholarships.



Quality of Life

✓ Preserving our farmlands

SB 5108 will create an Office of Farmland Preservation and a Farmland Preservation Task Force, largely made up of farmers, to provide current and new generations of farmers with tools to keep agricultural land for agricultural purposes. With farmers facing mounting pressure to sell land to developers, this measure is crucial for preserving the farmland that is essential to our communities' rural character. I sponsored this bill at the request of Skagit County farmers.

✓ Clean energy

House Bill 1303 encourages the use of clean energy through port pollution controls, biodiesel use in state agency fleets, replacement of old school buses, and use of electric vehicles by state agencies.

✓ Protecting Puget Sound from oil spills

House Bill 1488 expands the uses of the state's Oil Spill Prevention Account to include funding of the Oil Spill Advisory Council and the removal of derelict vessels that slowly pollute our waters. The bill also directs the state Department of Ecology to provide a year-round rescue tug at the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca for any potential tanker mishaps.

✓ Regional mobility

The state Regional Mobility Grant Program provides funding for several public transportation programs in our area, including Commuter Express Connector Service and Swift Bus Rapid Transit from Skagit and Island counties to Everett Station, as well as funding for the Chuckanut Park-and-Ride.

✓ Responding to global climate change

Senate Bill 6001 rolls back Washington's greenhouse gas emissions levels to 1990 levels by 2020. The bill establishes a rigorous greenhouse gas performance standard for new natural gas and coal plants and for power purchases by utilities. It offers utilities incentives to invest in cost-effective conservation and energy-efficiency technologies, and it authorizes utilities to spend money for emission mitigation.

✓ Creating the Puget Sound Partnership

Senate Bill 5372 replaces the Puget Sound Action Team with the Puget Sound Partnership, which will coordinate existing recovery efforts, develop an action agenda, and promote strong involvement by citizens around the Sound. The partnership will be led by a leadership council and will rely upon local communities and stakeholders for input on what needs to be done, as well as how to accomplish these goals.

✓ Exempting taxes on farm biodiesel

SB 5009 exempts the sales tax on biodiesel, including biodiesel blended with diesel, from sales and use taxes provided it is used by farmers for non-highway uses. I sponsored this to help our farmers and their narrow profit margins cope with the rising cost of fuel.

Health Care

✓ Health coverage for kids

SB 5093 will extend health coverage to 38,000 uninsured children across the state. This not only makes for healthier kids, it will lower insurance rates for everyone else. Children without health coverage miss important screenings and, when they get sick, wind up in costly emergency rooms instead of doctors' offices — an expense that is passed on in the form of higher rates to those with health insurance.



✓ Health care reform

We implemented the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Costs and Access, including rewarding outcomes rather than merely paying for services; cutting down on unnecessary emergency room visits; using a connector to link small businesses with affordable options; promoting electronic records to improve treatment and reduce errors; and encouraging coverage of dependent children younger than 25.

Other health care bills I supported this year will:

- Increase childhood immunizations;
- Expand mental health coverage;
- Make prescription drugs more affordable;
- Take steps toward higher quality, more affordable care;
- Cover prescription co-pays for seniors on Medicare;
- Manage chronic illness better;
- Keep foster kids healthy;
- Give pediatricians a fair reimbursement;
- Prevent and treat disease;
- Provide better health care information for families;
- Help people navigate the health care system;
- Expand technology compatibility among providers; and
- Connect state health care facilities with electronic medical records.

Our Future

✓ Establishing a Rainy Day Fund

SJR 8206 will let voters decide whether the state should have a constitutionally mandated Rainy Day Fund. If approved, each fiscal year, 1 percent of general state revenues — or about \$130 million — will be deposited into the account. That money could be tapped by a majority vote of the Legislature if forecasted state employment growth for any fiscal year is less than 1 percent, or if the governor declares an emergency resulting from a catastrophic natural disaster that requires immediate government action to protect life or public safety.

10th District Projects

Here in the 10th District, funding continues for a wide range of important projects.

10th District transportation projects

Ferry maintenance and terminal construction	\$127 million
Safety improvements on SR 532	\$61 million
Rebuilding the SR 531 interchange on I-5	\$42 million
Replace or maintain bridges on SR 9, SR 532 and SR 20	\$25.8 million
New asphalt on parts of I-5, SR 11, SR 20, SR 525, SR 532 and SR 536	\$17.3 million
Complete the I-5 interchange at SR 532	\$8.1 million
New pavement on I-5 in the area of SR 532	\$7.9 million
Chuckanut Park-&-Ride on SR 11	\$7 million
Rail improvements in Mount Vernon and Stanwood	\$6.8 million
Complete new Amtrak Cascades train station in Stanwood	\$5 million
Pedestrian and bicycle improvements on SR 20 and SR 531	\$3.8 million
A turn lane and safety improvements to an obscured intersection on SR 9	\$3 million
Island Transit Park-&-Ride development	\$2.5 million

New transportation project funding

Anderson Park-&-Ride	\$4.5 million
Build a sound wall along Interstate 5 to reduce noise by the Westview School in the Burlington-Edison School District	\$1.4 million

10th District capital projects

Washington Wildlife Recreation Program	\$100 million (state total)
The Trust Land Transfer Program	\$99 million (state total)
Cama Beach State Park, including a park retreat center	\$6.1 million
The YMCA of Snohomish County's Ebey Island project	\$2.2 million
Bay View Park's wastewater treatment system	\$2.2 million
The Freeland Main Street Sewer Project	\$1 million
Ebey's Reserve Farmland preservation	\$750,000
State parks	\$750,000
Cornet Bay at Deception Pass	\$485,000
Skagit River Forks riparian protection	\$464,000
Hoypus Hill addition at Deception Pass	\$460,000
Smith Prairie Farmland preservation	\$391,000
La Conner Quilt Museum	\$125,000
Coupeville covered play area	\$113,000
Enhancements at Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve	\$100,000
Admiralty Inlet park improvements	\$100,000
Oak Harbor Marina dredging	\$59,000
Oak Harbor Veterans Memorial	\$50,000

Town Hall Meeting



Tell me what's on your mind, June 2

Please join me at my upcoming town hall meetings on **Saturday, June 2**, when I will discuss the recent legislative session and answer any questions you might have.

10 a.m. — Coupeville Recreational Hall

901 NW Alexander in Coupeville

2 p.m. — Stanwood Senior Center Cafeteria

7430 276th St. NW in Stanwood

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